

# Oregon Rally News

February, 1998

The Last Newsletter of the Ben Regime

Vol. 2, No. 2

## From the President

by Mike Nagle

The 1998 rally season is upon us. We can look forward to some exciting times, but we also have some responsibilities to tend to. The Oregon Trail Rally is our prime image maker. We must continue to work to maintain and improve on the respect that our event is earning in the rally community. To that end I challenge each of you to step forward, NOW!, and accept a piece of the challenge. This year we are HQ out of Clatskanie and operating off of HWY 30 on Sat., June 6th. Start is sponsored again by NAPA distributor. I am working on a sponsor of the finish and a sponsor for the spectator area. We need more sponsors, whether for a stage, or spectator flyer advertiser, or product/prize donator. Who is going to coordinate the EMTs? What's the available personnel in the Astoria to Longview area for EMT and radio hams? Who's going to coordinate concessions? I'm coordinating promotion and sponsors this year. So who's the chief of controls or any of the other official positions? Step forward, NOW! Got an idea to add a bang to our event, give me a call.

### DOO WOP RALLY 1, Sat. 2-14-98

We need volunteers to staff our stage.  
Meet 10am @ Porter Saloon  
20 miles west of I-5 Exit #88 along Hwy 12

### DOO WOP RALLY 2, Sun. 2-15-98

Meet 10:30am @ Littlerock Firestation  
4 miles west of I-5 Exit #95 in Littlerock

### BRING YOUR CAMERA!!

This year I want everyone to be taking and submitting photos of rally activity to put into our ORG Yearly almanac.



The Oregon Rally Group booth at the 1998 Race Central Swap Meet on January 24. Janice Damitio's Toyota Celica was the centerpiece of the display. (Photo by Mike Nagle)



ORG Vice President for Membership Catherine Roso at the Oregon Rally Group booth. (photo by Mike Nagle)

## Upcoming Events

February 14/15 ..	Doo Wop 1 & 2 .....	Olympia, WA
March 14/15 .....	Doo Wop 3 & 4 .....	Olympia, WA
April 4 .....	America 2000 .....	Ensenada, Mexico
April 18 .....	Wild West .....	Shelton, WA
May 8 & 9 .....	Rim of the World .....	Palmdale, CA
June 6 .....	Oregon Trail .....	Portland, OR
June 13 .....	Edge of the Rock .....	Duncan, BC

### Next Oregon Rally Group Meeting:

Thursday, February 19, 7:00 pm

G.E. Service Center

2727 N.W. 29th, Portland

## 1998 World Rally Championship Preview

✍ By Robert Mahony

Twelve months ago we were facing up to the first 14-round championship, the longest in the history of the WRC. This year, again a 14-round contest, sees the addition of a fourth team (Toyota) with the realistic challenge of taking the crown. Four camps - Subaru, Mitsubishi, Ford and Toyota - field strong teams all with the hopes (and ability) of tasting victory this season. The year ahead could provide us with the most open series in years.

### SUBARU

Winter work for the 555 team has been aimed at finding a permanent solution to the engine problem which for a while last year put Subaru's manufacturers crown in jeopardy. There have been some minor changes to the front aerodynamics of the Impreza WRC98 car, but we can still expect an awesomely competitive car. Colin McRae/Nicky Grist will still hold the team's #1 car spot, partnered by Piero Liatti/Fabrizia Pons in all 14 round of the championship.

### MITSUBISHI

The lack of a permanent two-car team prevented the Ralliart team from being competitive in challenging the manufac-



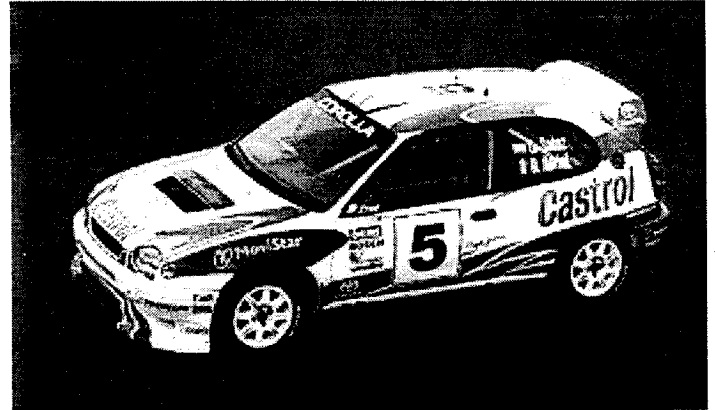
tures' championship last year. This year will see Tommi Makinen/Risto Mannisenamki in a Lancer E4 and Richard Burns/Robert Reid in a Carisma GT make up one of the strongest teams. The team will switch to a newer Lancer E5 in Spain. Makinen will fight hard to regain his championship title and Burns, after a very consistent year in '97, will be hungry for his first WRC win this year.

### FORD

With Malcolm Wilson at the helm, Ford was back last year as a team to be reckoned with. This season will see a new TRW developed engine power the Escort WRC. Ford also have a new major sponsor for the 1998 season, motor oil giant Valvoline. With the loss of Sainz to Toyota, Juha Kankkunen (the worlds most successful driver) and co-driver Juha Repo will take on the role of team leaders. Belgian Bruno Thiry, with co-driver Stephane Prevot, will drive the #2 car.

### TOYOTA

The second most successful team of all time arrives at the start of 1998 almost in the role of newcomer following a two year absence from the championship race. The team has devel-



oped a new car, the first World Rally Car to fully embrace the spirit of the rules, full of computers and other electronics. Probably the most complex machine since the days of group B. The team will draw on one of the most successful partnerships for drivers, Carlos Sainz/Luis Moya and Didier Auriol/Denis Giraudet having 37 WRC wins between them.

Last years' season saw events decided by seconds, so close at times that there were real doubts whether the fastest cars had won the events. Mathematically, if the winning margin in seconds was less than the number of stages in the event, and it sometimes was, the risk was too great for the sport to retain its 'timed to second' tradition. Therefore for 1998, we will see timing to the tenths and possibly to hundredths if that still doesn't help! The World Rally Drivers Championship for 1997 was not decided until the final round, the Network Q RAC Rally. Tommi Makinen's sixth place gave him the necessary one point to keep the crown from Colin McRae, and make the Finn only the third driver to claim back-to-back titles. Will Makinen become the first to take three World Rally Drivers Championships in succession? Can McRae get back to the top? Possibly an even better one, will it be Subaru or Mitsubishi who will take the manufacturers' title in 1998?? Just about the only thing we can be certain of for 1998 is that we will get more of the same high quality competition.

# OREGON

## RALLY GROUP

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Oregon Rally Group  
Annual General Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 1998

Present: Ben Bradley, Kevin Poirier, Ken Murphy, Simon Levear, Vance Walker, Tony Dienstel, Todd Lengacher, Tina Warner, Terry & Carolanne Unger, Dave Lund, David Tow, Andy Hilmer, Chris Portal, Adelaide Zink, Forrest & Margaret Farrington, Mike Glass, Robert Mahony, Chris Kouba, Mike Nagle, Catherine Roso, Trevor & Becky Donison

The Annual General Meeting took place at Chris Kouba's house. It was called to order at 4:11 pm, after two hours of food, rally videos, and hard-fought Sega Rally battles.

There was no agenda. It was another free-form meeting.

--The date of May 30 would not work. There is a big HAM convention in Seaside. We would not have radios if we ran on that day.

--June 6 is STPR and is one week before Edge of the Rock, 2 weeks before Reno

--can't do it another date if we want to stay within Rose Festival window

--It was motioned and seconded to move the date of Oregon Trail to June 6

--It was approved, with one vote against

--It was motioned and seconded that we commit \$250 to remain listed with the Rose Festival

--It was approved, with one vote against

--We need to speak with the Festival about getting more bang for the buck

--Mike has filed an application to use state forest roads off Highway 30 near Clatskanie

--The folks at the Tillamook forest are supporting our application

--Tony Dienstel gave a report on HAM radio communications

--He went to an Amateur Radio Group club meeting to publicize our event

--HAMS are interested in helping out with Oregon Trail and perhaps northern events

--The Seaside HAM convention is a really big deal; we can't conflict with it

--The Lone Wolf motorcycle trials are not a national this year, and are on Sunday-only

--There is a HAM radio class coming up this spring on five consecutive Saturdays, 9am - noon

--April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9

--We could do a group self-taught course with the book

--Tests are given every second Sunday at the Round Table Pizza on Barbur

--Race Central Swap Meet

--Three SCCA booths will be set up together, with OR Region, Solo and ORG

--We intend to get another booth for ORG for \$55

--ORG has permission to use Janice Damitio's Toyota Celica for the display

--Simon will pick it up from Vern, and return it after the show

--We need photos, Simon is bringing a tv and the Sega Rally game

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--Treasurer's Report

- We have money. Secretary neglected to record balance.
- Secretary was, however, paid for previous month's mailing expenses

--Washougal Rallysprints

- John Elkin is working with Ken Murphy on this
- Need to find an available date and determine what it would cost

--Oregon Rally Group annual elections

- Three of five board positions started their second year of their term:
  - Catherine Roso, Vice President for Membership
  - Rich Olmstead, Vice President for Events
  - Simon Levear, Treasurer
- Appointed one-year terms concluded for:
  - Ben Bradley, Secretary
  - Mike Nagle, President
- Ben Bradley and Andy Hilmer were nominated for the position of Secretary
  - Bradley declined, citing distraction of masters degree paper. Plus he's a slacker.
  - Hilmer was elected unanimously, and accepted the position (yay!)
- Mike Nagle and Chris Kouba were nominated for the position of President
  - Nagle emerged victorious by secret ballot, and accepted the position

--Workers are needed for the Doo Wop rallies. Contact Chris Portal or Mike Nagle.

--Worker Appreciation/Competitor Award Party next Sunday in Olympia.

The next ORG meeting will be on Thursday, February 19 at the GE Service Center.

The meeting conclusion time was not recorded. There was lots of food left to eat.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ben Bradley